**Becoming Your Own Self**

The item from my past is a snowboard. I chose this item because of an event that happened while I was snowboarding. It was a normal winter day. A couple of my friends and I decided to go to Ski Sawmill, which is a small ski resort close to where we live. So we gathered and packed our equipment up in to my friends SUV. The drive up was normal and fun. We made jokes and laughed the whole time. After 45 minutes of hilarious laughter, we got to the resort. We unpacked and claimed our spot inside the gigantic log cabin where the main entrance to the resort was. After getting our tickets we geared up and headed out into the winter snow. We snowboarded through the day and into the night. At this point each of us were going down different paths at the resort. Once I got done with one of the runs down the hill I lined up and got on the ski lift. I then strapped myself to my board and waited for the ride to end.

This is the moment that I remember the most and will hopefully never forget. I was at the top of the mountain and I stopped and just looked out over the mountainous landscape. It was breathtaking. The lights from the resort illuminated outwards and made the appearance amazing to see. I then closed my eyes and took a deep, fresh breath in through my nose. I smelled the crisp cold air. It sent shivers down my spine. At that moment though, I never felt so free in my life. Nothing was on my mind, not a single problem nor a single bit of stress. It was like reality faded away for a couple of seconds. Nothing, at the moment, could have bothered me. That moment is forever stuck in my mind. Now every time I go there, I do that same exact set of motions so I can feel that feeling of freedom again. This feeling is forever stuck with me. My goal is to hopefully get a career where I can experience this every day of my life. I know that the only way to get that feeling is to follow my passion. To do what I love, not to listen to what others tell me I should do. Part of being educated is being able to be independent. That is what this memory taught me.   
  
**Present**

A moment from my present I would have to choose is when my mom tried to get me to switch to accounting as my major. She has always wanted me to be an accounting major but I have always like Marketing or Management. It was a small argument but I knew I couldn't back down because I have to do what makes me happy. I’m the one that has to live my life and be happy with it. The argument itself didn't last for too long because in the end I just did what I wanted. I switched to a Management major because I knew that would make me the happiest. To me it was all about what I knew would make me happier. Being able to be independent and stand up for yourself is a good thing. It teaches you to know your values and when fighting for something is worth it or not. There is also a line that can be crossed when you stand up for yourself. It can go from being proud, to being arrogant. Being educated means you know that line and how to be respectfully independent.

**Future**

The event in my future would have to be when I start my own business and I make the first sale of my life. I can imagine the day. I am standing in the waiting room to enter the office of a CEO of a major company. I have a suit and tie on and then I hear, “Mr. Rishell, you may enter the room now.” I walk in and shake the CEO's hand. The sales pitch then begins. I throw around the fanciest terms I know and all of the numbers and sales that my company makes. I do my best to try to persuade the CEO as to why my product is the best for his company. Once the pitch is over, we get down to business and start asking and answering questions, mostly about money I imagine. There is then a long pause. His voice breaks the silence. He says he would like to make a full order of my product and how much he'll be paying. We stand up and shake hands. My first sale of my professional life is now completed. I then walk out with one of the best feelings in the world, I can imagine. I am now a successful businessman who just completed his first deal. Being educated means being independent and being able to stand up and enter the world on your own. When it comes down to it, all you might have is yourself, so being independent is a skill worth having.